

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Action Plan Team: CORE Mission

Statement of Issue #: 11-17 The capacity of the NETC campus is inadequate to handle the volume of current and potential applicants for resident programs and the support of those programs.

Recommendation #s: R-50 and R-51
(these two recommendations are being combined due to the nature of the site utilization survey and findings.)

Summary:

R-50 “Develop a short and long-range (three to five year) capital improvement plan that addresses projected needs and the focus of which is on the delivery of user services. This shall include the expansion of dormitory, classroom and office space.”

And,

R-51 “Study the potential use of Mount Weather as an additional site for resident courses.”

Recommendation:

Construct new facilities, both classrooms and dormitories, at NETC to accommodate 200 additional students.

Background:

FEMA Director James Lee Witt created a Blue Ribbon Panel to provide recommendations to guide the USFA toward its goal of becoming a world-class organization. The outcome of this working group was the USFA Action Plan that outlined the steps required to implement the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations.

One of the items in the Action Plan addressed the capacity of the NETC campus. The report questioned whether the NETC facility was adequate to handle the volume of current and potential applications for resident programs.

A Team was formed as a result of the recommendation to look at site feasibility issues for expanding the NETC student population. The NETC Team consisted of representatives from each Program Office and a member of the local NETC Union.

The Team studied the potential use of Ft. Ritchie as an alternate site, the potential use of Mt. Weather as an alternate site for resident courses, and evaluated the option of building additional classroom and dormitory space at NETC. (A copy of the report is attached, Appendix A.)

Additionally, in Conference Committee Report on H.R. 2684, VA HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2000, the following statement appeared:

“The conferees are concerned that FEMA may not have adequate resources available for the training of federal, state, local, and volunteer disaster officials on the latest techniques in disaster response and resource management. Therefore, the conferees direct FEMA to study the feasibility and the merits of establishing a national training academy in south Florida for the above purposes. In completing such study, FEMA should consult with other agencies engaged in natural disaster response and assistance, and should take into account the activities of the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland.”

In order to address the concerns raised in the report, FEMA evaluated the following issues: (Copy of this report is also attached, Appendix B.)

- I. Audience for disaster response and resource management training.
- II. Resources available for training of federal, state, local and volunteer officials.
- III. Feasibility of establishing an additional training Facility
- IV. Merits of establishing an additional training facility.

While not all students need to come to Emmitsburg to participate in training, there continues to be a demand for attendance at the resident facility. Currently, FEMA's Emmitsburg facility is operating at or near maximum capacity. Unfortunately, an average of 2,700 qualified candidates are unable to attend classes for which they apply each year because the class is already filled. An additional estimated 200 individuals need to be reached each week to address the current and anticipated future demand.

If the resources were made available to increase FEMA's resident training capacity, the best option for doing so would be to expand the Emmitsburg facility. This would allow FEMA to take advantage of common use facilities such as the cafeteria, library, auditoriums and recreational facilities, which would require minimal adjustment. If the Emmitsburg facility were to be expanded, the following would be needed.

1. Priority:

High

2. Step(s) to Achieve:

Construct 80,000 square feet dormitory space with single occupancy rooms and private baths for 200 students and 16-20 contract instructors.

Construct 32,980 square feet of classroom area with nine classrooms and 36 breakout rooms.

Construct a parking lot for 125 vehicles.

Purchase dormitory furniture and furnishings.

Purchase classroom furniture and equipment.

Additional security/medical service, building and ground maintenance (includes linen service, housekeeping services, equipment maintenance, refuse removal, student ground transportation, and student services support), utilities (telephone, electricity, water, sewer, gas or fuel oil), contract instructor services, student stipend reimbursement, course materials and supplies, and operating supplies and equipment.

Ten additional staff to support this increased educational program effort.

There would be start-up costs to make these additional facilities useable if the Emmitsburg facility were to be expanded. We would need to expand contractor support to operate and maintain the facility, as well as provide the additional instructional support. Additional staff would also be needed to handle the additional workload.

3. Estimated Time Frame:

Design for additional classroom and dormitory space to begin in FY 2001.

Construction of additional classroom and dormitory space to begin in FY 2002.

Utilization of the new classroom and dormitory late in FY 2003.

4. Estimated Cost:	Estimated one-time costs \$16,400,000 (See Appendix C)
	Recurring annual costs \$ 5,381,061 (See Appendix C)
	Total \$21,781,061

5. Outcome: Increase the capacity of the NETC campus to handle the volume of current and potential applicants for resident programs.

Conclusion: The Core Mission Team supports this recommendation to expand the NETC facilities.

Submitted by:

Core Mission Action Plan Team:

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APPROVED/Date

DISAPPROVED/Date